

Competency: INVESTIGATE

Ask and refine a researchable question, design a valid experiment or inquiry, and gather appropriate information to complete the inquiry.

This rubric contains both domains and individual criteria for the highest level of performance relative to the competency. You may wish to use this as a beginning point for the development of competency-based rubrics that employ kid-friendly language. The goal of this document is to remind you of the “end goal” for each competency, ensuring that the local rubrics you create are calibrated to a high level of rigor.

Domains with Criteria	Highest Level of Performance
QUESTIONING	
Intellectual Reach	Uses questions to extend learning and challenge his/her own ideas, taking significant intellectual risks.
Question Focus	Independently refines and focuses general questions to ensure that they can be tested or researched effectively.
DESIGN	
Background	Identifies and seeks out information required before deeper investigation is to begin. Uses the insights gained from each source to refine an understanding of what must be known.
Thesis/Hypothesis	Develops an insightful thesis/hypothesis that integrates a sound knowledge base and a deep understanding of concepts. Defends the thesis/hypothesis comprehensively, explaining both underlying principles and independent theories. Answers both expected and unexpected questions effectively.
Investigative Design	Formulates a creative and effective strategy for answering the question, aligned with the thesis/hypothesis. Identifies and controls for variables. Logically explains the reasons for various aspects of the investigative design, answering questions that arise.
IMPLEMENTATION	
Tools	Selects and uses the most effective tools, resources and technologies to collect and record data.
Adjustment	Adjusts the investigative plan based on challenges met, unexpected findings, new information, or new ideas. Adjustments show keen insight into the investigative process and improve the quality of the research/experiment.
Data Collection and Organization	Performs accurate measurements and calculations. Collects and records data in an optimally accurate, timely and precise manner. Organizes data in a way that optimizes opportunities to see patterns and themes.